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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Poland/USSR

SUBJECT Alteration of Railroad Gauges

DIST. 10 July 1947

PAGES

SUPPLEMENT

ORIGIN

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1. Following an agreement signed in Moscow by the Polish Foreign Minister, it was announced that the wide-gauge railroads in Upper Silesia were to be altered to standard European gauge. However, the following was not made public.
2. The wide-gauge railroads leading out of Upper Silesia eastwards into the USSR are to be altered to the normal European gauge as of 1 November 1947.
☐ comment: From what follows it is evident that this alteration is to extend not only across Poland but also into the USSR.)
3. During the period of alteration the coal which formerly went directly east to the USSR is to be re-routed to Kaliningrad. As soon as the alteration is completed the coal is to be once more routed east and in larger quantities and more rapidly than before, since there will be no need of trans-shipping to wide-gauge cars.
4. The Polish railroads are repairing old and constructing new coal cars which will be used for the transport of coal to the USSR in the future, instead of the Soviet coal cars which are considerably smaller.
5. The line running from Ungvar (Uzhhorod, on the Russian side of the Czech-Russian border) eastwards into the Ukraine is to be altered to standard European gauge, as is also the line going east from Munkacs (Mukačevo, also in Ruthenia).

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